

CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC SYSTEMS.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 765.]

MAY 22, 1860.

Mr. E. JOY MORRIS, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom were referred resolutions of the House of Representatives, inquiring into the expediency of increasing the salary of the consul at Bremen, and fixing salaries for the consuls at Assumption, Swatow, and Malta, and memorials of citizens of Albany, asking that the consulate at Arica be made a salaried office, have had the same under consideration, together with a communication from the Secretary of State, suggesting modifications of the consular system of the United States, and now report :

That although the consular system of the United States has recently been remodelled with great care, supplemental legislation is, and will doubtless be from time to time hereafter, absolutely necessary. "We know how difficult a task it is," remarked Attorney General Cushing in a communication to the Secretary of State, "in remodelling any great department of the public service, to give apt expression to all which is included in the assumed theory of the act. It requires much circumspection and reflection to adapt successfully the new parts of the system to the old ones; many new *lacunæ* will remain to be filled up." The changes in the extent of our commercial relations abroad will necessarily require corresponding changes in our consular system, especially so far as it relates to countries where, by treaty stipulations, the duties of consuls are materially changed, or new ports are opened to our trade.

The opinion of the Department of State was solicited on the resolutions of the House of Representatives. On that instructing the committee to inquire into the expediency of establishing a salary for the consul at Swatow, in China, the Secretary of State remarks: "It has been thought expedient to recommend that the same compensation be given to the consul at Swatow as at the consulates of Canton, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. The department has reason to believe that our commerce at this port will shortly equal that at Shanghai, as it now exceeds in importance the American commerce at either of the ports of Amoy, Foo Choo, or Ningpo. As the American consul is invested

with judicial functions, the establishment of a consulate at Swatow is a pressing necessity. Additional information concerning this port may be found in the papers accompanying this communication, entitled 'Swatow.' These papers are appended to this report, and the committee have received satisfactory evidence that the cost of living at Swatow is greater than at any other Chinese port. They recommend the establishment of a consulate at Swatow, with a salary of \$4,000.

On the resolution of the House of Representatives directing the committee to inquire into the expediency or propriety of reporting a bill to increase the salary for the consul at Bremen, the Secretary of State referred the committee to his "letter on this subject, addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives," January 25, 1858.—(Executive Document No. 68, 35th Congress, 2d session.) In this communication despatches are given from the consuls at Bremen and other places, showing, to the satisfaction of the department, that in these cases the salaries established by the act of 1856 "are inadequate for the support of consular officers, and do not afford, especially in view of the expenses to which they are necessarily subjected, in consequence of their official position, an adequate remuneration for their laborious services, or the responsible duties which they are required to discharge." The committee are not disposed to recommend, at the present time, the appointment of consular clerks as the best way of affording relief to the consul at Bremen, with whose duties they have become conversant while considering a memorial from a predecessor in office. They report an increase of salary, making it \$3,000.

Petitions, numerously signed, have been referred by the House of Representatives to the committee, asking that a salary be allowed to the consul at Arica, which was mentioned by the Secretary of State in his communication to Congress of January 25, 1858, as one of those consulates deprived of its salary. In accordance with the recommendation then made, and for the reasons set forth in the memorial accompanying this report, marked "Arica," the committee recommend that the consul at Arica receive an annual salary of \$500.

The committee having, in soliciting the opinion of the Department of State on the resolutions of the House of Representatives above mentioned, also requested the Secretary to communicate whether any further reformatory legislation is necessary with regard to the consular systems of the United States, have received from him a renewal of his previous recommendation to affix an increased compensation to each of the consulates at Barcelona and Gibraltar. The necessity for these salaries is shown by accompanying papers, marked "Barcelona," and "Gibraltar," and appended to this report. The committee recommend that an annual salary of \$1,500 be paid to the consul at Barcelona, and an annual salary of \$1,000 to the consul at Gibraltar.

The Secretary of State further remarks: "Applications have been made by American residents for the establishment of a consulate at Florence, for the convenience of numerous American citizens residing in that city, but an exequatur could never be obtained from the

Tuscan government. The annexation of Tuscany to Sardinia removes that impediment, and, with a view to the establishment of a consulate, it is accordingly recommended to allow compensation for the consul at the rate of \$1,500 per annum." This recommendation your committee endorse.

The accompanying bill, embodying the above-mentioned recommendations, is submitted.

In reference to the resolution of the House of Representatives touching the consulate at Assumption, the Secretary of State remarks: "A salary of \$1,500 per annum is recommended, the necessity of which will be perceived from an examination of the accompanying communications, marked 'Assumption.'" These papers are appended to this report, and the committee recommend that the consul at Assumption receive an annual salary of \$1,500.

The consulate at Malta, respecting which inquiry is made in the resolution of the House of Representatives, is one of those for which no provision was made by the act of 1856, which deprived the occupants of small salaries previously allowed them at the suggestion of the State Department. These salaries were barely sufficient to reimburse these consular officers for the additional expense to which they were necessarily subjected on account of their official position, and in 1858 the Secretary of State called the attention of Congress to the necessity of "restoring the salaries formerly allowed, or appropriating a larger amount for the same purpose." Malta was first mentioned as "one of those places where important commercial interests require the presence of consular officers." Its importance as the central seaport of the Mediterranean is well known, and in the event of a maratime war involving any of the powers whose possessions border those waters, it would become (as it did during the Crimean struggle) a resort for large numbers of American vessels. A stopping place on the principal route between Great Britain and the east, Malta is every year visited by a large number of American travellers, and it is of the highest importance to have the consulate there well filled, as it has been since the present worthy incumbent was appointed in 1834. While he has served his country faithfully for twenty-six years without salary, and with scanty fees, amounting to but little over \$400 per annum, consulates at the neighboring ports of Sicily and Italy have been endowed with remunerative salaries. The committee therefore earnestly recommend that the consul at Malta receive a salary of \$1,500.

SWATOW.

Mr. Breck to Mr. Appleton.

WASHINGTON, May 2, 1860.

SIR: I beg to hand to you the enclosed communication received from the Hon. Peter Parker, late United States commissioner in China, and a communication from Fred. T. Bush, esq, for many years a residen

and United States consul at Hong Kong, and now a resident of Boston, engaged in the China trade, both in reference to the newly opened port of Swatow, in China.

I also beg reference to the enclosed list of arrivals of vessels at Swatow, copied from an imperfect file of China papers, showing the large business done at this port prior to its being open to trade under diplomatic negotiations, as evidence of the importance of this port in a commercial view.

I would also call the attention of the department to newspapers and statistics laid before the Committee on Foreign Affairs as to the importance of this newly opened port, and to the fact that the coasting trade carried on between China, Siam, India, and the islands of the Pacific and Indian oceans is divided equally between American and European vessels, and that this port becomes still more important from its safe harbor and safe navigation.

I also beg to enclose a statement of the exports and imports, and arrivals and departure of vessels, and the trade generally between this country and China for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859.

The arrivals of vessels at Swatow since opened to trade, on the first of January, will be found, on reference to the China Trade Reports in the hands of the committee, to exceed the united arrivals at any two of the older ports of Foo Choo, Ningpo, and Amoy.

I also beg reference to that part of Mr. Parker's letter in which allusion is made to the fine harbor in Swatow, and the safe navigation of the Han river; and on examination it will be found that the harbor of Swatow is the only harbor at any one of the China ports to which our larger class of naval vessels can approach, and in which lie in safety.

I would also respectfully call the attention of the department to the fact that under the treaty it becomes necessary for the consul to exercise judicial functions at this port, and that it has already become the resort of a large number of American seamen; and as trade increases, and the advantages of the trade at this port are developed, it will be found that a large number of American vessels with their crews are always lying here, and in all cases of disturbance are alone under our consular jurisdiction; that our present relations with the Chinese are on the most favorable footing, and to retain their confidence and our commercial standing, it is necessary that the terms of the treaty on our part, through our consuls, be honorably and faithfully carried out.

I have the honor to remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM BRECK.

Hon. JOHN APPLETON,
Assistant Secretary of State.

Mr. Parker to Mr. Breck.

388 C STREET, WASHINGTON, *May 1, 1860.*

SIR: At the instance of William Breck, esq., consul elect of the United States for the port of Swatow, I have much pleasure in expressing to the Department of State, as I have already done to a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, who applied to me, my views of the expediency of the early establishment of a United States consulate at that newly opened and important port of China. The fact that commerce had anticipated diplomatic and treaty negotiations at that port is evidence of its importance. Its fine harbor and safe navigation, years since, attracted thither an illicit trade in opium and coolies.

Swatow is in the department of the northeastern part of the province of Canton, between Hong Kong and Amoy, and situated at the mouth of the Han river, which is said to be navigable by a line-of-battle ships for fifty miles above this port.

As Swatow has been but recently opened by treaty, and foreign consular authorities are just being established there, full statistics of the trade are wanting. Sugar is one of the staple articles of export, and American cotton fabrics of import. The China trade between this port and the island of Formosa, Siam, and Prince of Wales Straits, has existed for years and is destined to increase. The number of vessels of different nations that have entered the port since the treaties of Teen Tsin in 1858, is very considerable, and will doubtless annually increase. The port is on the great commercial thoroughfare between the south and north of China, and from its accessibility, by far the greatest of any one of the ports, will necessarily be much frequented by our merchant vessels, often as a port of safety from the typhoons peculiar to those seas.

In the absence of foreign consuls serious and fatal collisions between the Chinese and foreigners of different nations have occurred, and politically and commercially I deem it of urgent necessity that each of the treaty powers establish consuls at this port with the least possible delay. The British consul has already entered upon his duties.

As respects the salary of United States consul for Swatow, in my judgment, it should be the same as at Foo Choo, \$3,500, inclusive of pay for judicial services.

I have the honor to remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

His Excellency LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Bush to Mr. Breck.

Boston, April 25, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR: In reply to your inquiry as to whether there is a probability of the port of Swatow becoming a point of sufficient trade to warrant the establishment of a full consulate, I would state that in my opinion, based upon a residence of fourteen years in China, and a knowledge of Chinese commercial character, I am fully satisfied that, taking into view the situation of the port, contiguous as it is to Hong Kong, with its fine harbor, easy of access, the outlet of a large sugar district, as well as other produce, close by Formosa, with which island it has a large trade, I cannot but think at the present time the presence of a person representing a first class consulate is needed. The expenses of living are so great that no person of character would be justified in accepting the position for the fees of the office, and my experience has satisfied me that our government should be represented in every port in China by salaried officials, men of character and ability, if it wishes to command the respect it is entitled to. Wherever the flag is hoisted trade will follow, and the moment our present minister notified the opening of the port of Swatow, trade commenced to increase, as you will find by examining the file of papers before you. I have written you hastily, without time to examine the statistics of the trade of the place, but if necessary I shall be glad to collect further information.

In conclusion, I would say that the appointment of a first class consul at Swatow is needed, if for no other purpose, for the suppression of the coolie trade as conducted at the present moment.

Yours truly,

FRED. T. BUSH,
Late Consul at Hong Kong.

W. BRECK, Esq.

General statement of the value of goods, wares, and merchandise of the growth and manufacture of the United States, exported to China, commencing on the 1st day of July, 1858, and ending on the 30th day of June, 1859.

Articles.	Value.
Beef and pork	\$51,053
Biscuit and ship-bread	25,983
Boards, plank, and lumber	58,526
Books, paper, and stationery	8,913
Butter and cheese	22,424
Cables and cordage	14,922
Carriages	2,872
Coal	89,581
Copper and brass manufactures	26,167

STATEMENT—Continued.

Articles.	Value.
Cotton, and manufactures of cotton	\$2, 832, 023
Drugs and medicines	85, 861
Ginseng, &c.	55, 574
Gold and silver manufactures, jewelry, &c.	526, 812
Hams, bacon, &c.	3, 722
Household furniture	6, 402
Ice	3, 479
India-rubber manufactures	2, 565
Iron castings, nails, and manufactures of iron	67, 824
Lard, lard oil, &c.	3, 068
Manufactures of leather, boots and shoes.	4, 226
Linseed oil	2, 165
Tobacco, leaf, and manufactured	32, 337
Tin, wood, and glass manufactures	24, 089
Paints and varnish	6, 268
Potatoes	2, 951
Soap	4, 698
Spirits from grain, molasses, &c.	9, 497
Wheat flour	139, 750
Rosin, turpentine, tar, pitch, and other productions not above enumerated ..	118, 064

Total value of exports to China of the growth, produce, and manufacture of the United States, from July 1, 1858, and ending June 30, 1859.

In American vessels.	In European vessels.	Total value.
\$4, 071, 920	\$161, 096	\$4, 233, 016

Total value of exports from the United States to China, and of imports from China to the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859 \$17, 918, 580

Total value of goods, wares, and merchandise of the growth, produce, and manufacture of foreign countries, exported from the United States to China, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859.

In American vessels.	In foreign vessels.	Total value.
\$2, 156, 022	\$738, 161	\$2, 894, 183

Total value of goods, wares, and merchandise of the growth, produce, and manufacture of foreign countries, imported from China into the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859.

In American vessels.	In foreign vessels.	Total value.
\$9, 796, 828	\$994, 553	\$10, 791, 381

Statement exhibiting the number of American and foreign vessels, with their tonnage and crews, which cleared from the United States for China during the year ending June 30, 1859.

American vessels.			Foreign vessels.			Total.		
No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
100	95,083	2,360	11	6,668	247	111	101,751	2,607

Statement exhibiting the number of American and foreign vessels, with their tonnage and crews, which entered into the United States from China during the year ending June 30, 1860.

American vessels.			Foreign vessels.			Total.		
No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
75	63,275	1,985	16	7,810	296	91	71,085	2,281

Arrivals of shipping at the port of Swatow, in China, copied from a file of China newspapers, with dates of arrivals, names of vessels, and tonnage.

Dates	Vessels' names.	Tonnage.
1859.		
May 2	Diana	
16	Magdalena	510
25	Agnes	
June 4	Livingston	535
	Mencius	510
13	Flavius	
16	Melbourne	
19	Ferdinand	
	Mercator	
16	Tory	
26	Confucius	511
27	Kenilworth	537
26	Isle of France	338
	Betty Perlbach	564
	Cid	316
	Beverly	462
30	Hydroosee	600
	Ferdinand Nies	
	Victoria	1,002
July 3	Henry Miller	434
12	Nicoline	287

STATEMENT—Continued.

Dates.	Vessels' names.	Tonnage.
1859.		
July 13	Glendgariff.....	404
14	Richard Cobden.....	424
	Sea Nymph.....	464
	Spirit of Trade.....	528
	Doctor F. Fautzner.....	335
9	Wide Awake.....	729
Sept. 1	Shooting Star.....	800
	Swan.....	350
	Orestes.....	422
16	Cecilia.....	340
	Chin Chin.....	320
	India.....	401
	Italian, steamer.....	
	Hellespont.....	
	Chusau.....	
15	Alliance.....	
	George William.....	
	Lady Inglis.....	376
	India.....	401
	Magdalena.....	324
	Podesta.....	346
	Shantung.....	311
Oct. 25	Manilla.....	
26	Reynard.....	
28	Shamrock.....	
	St. Vincent.....	
	Sun Nap.....	
29	Wild Wave.....	
	Albers.....	
Nov. 1	Manilla.....	
4	Richard Cobden.....	
	William Frederick.....	
	Palmerston.....	
	Toey Wan.....	
8	Magdalena.....	
9	Wild Wave.....	
	Chusau.....	
	Scotsman.....	
10	Albers.....	357
	Alliance.....	
	Beverly.....	462
	Celestial.....	
	Diana.....	
	Flavius.....	
	Hazard.....	
	Livingston.....	535
	Lucky Star.....	
	Magdalena.....	510
	Melbourne.....	450
	Palmerston.....	597
	Reynard.....	438
	Richard Cobden.....	425
	Scotsman.....	
	Shantung.....	
	Swan.....	150
	Victoria.....	1,002
	Wide Awake.....	750
	William Frederick.....	485

STATEMENT—Continued.

Dates.	Vessels' names.	Tonnage.
1859.		
Nov. 9	Chusau and Persia.....	
11	Str. ship Peiho.....	
	Toey Wan.....	
15	Fernandes.....	
	Stag Hound.....	
16	Wild Dayrell.....	
	S. S. Peiho.....	
19	Chusau.....	
20	Fernandes.....	
21	Toey Wan.....	
22	Phantom.....	
	Manilla.....	
24	Agnes.....	
	Helvetia.....	
	Duncan Boyle.....	
26	Wild Wave.....	
27	H. M. Firm.....	
29	Toey Wan.....	
30	Resolute.....	
Dec. 7	Matanzas.....	
9	Chusau.....	
	Peiho.....	
10	Toey Wan.....	
12	Lady Elgin.....	
13	Faust.....	
14	Hydroose.....	
15	Wild Wave.....	
19	Chusau.....	
	Fernandes.....	
20	Wild Dayrell.....	
	Cecelia.....	
	Resolute.....	
	Welcome.....	
Jan. 28	Albert Edward.....	497
	Ivera.....	426
29	Albers.....	357
19	Helvetia.....	477
4	Magdalena.....	324
28	Kate Kearney.....	
12	Adolph.....	120
11	Georgiana.....	445
12	G. H. Wappaus.....	304
	Stag Hound.....	1,400
22	Welcome.....	387
Feb. 1	Faust.....	
2	Wild Wave.....	
3	Beverly.....	

ASUNCION.

Letter from Mr. Bamberger to Mr. Cass.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Asuncion del Paraguay, January 10, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose to the department "return of fees," as directed by circular No. 6, dated Washington, June 1, 1858, and received here the 6th instant.

Only one fee was received here in the year 1858, to the amount of \$3 54, and none in 1857.

I take this opportunity to state to the honorable the Secretary of State, as I had the honor to do on a former occasion, (September 24, 1857, in despatch No. 8,) and which no doubt was overlooked by press of business *only*, that when I left the United States in the year 1855 Hon. Mr. Marcy, then Secretary of State, promised me a fair salary, as it was known no fees were to be collected as yet at this port.

Mr. Marcy wished me to start immediately for here after receiving my commission, which I did, expecting to hear about the salary for this consulate shortly after my arrival, as it was promised to me and I had a right to expect, but have done so *vainly* for more than *three years*.

This is a very dear place, much more so than Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, or even Rio de Janeiro; you are obliged to spend a great deal of money only to procure the most common and most necessary things of life, and *house rent* is equally dear; besides, this government does not like to see consuls engaged in private business, although they are not prohibited to do so; they prefer consuls not doing so, as on some former occasions foreign consuls having mixed their public character into their private affairs, creating serious misunderstandings and bad feelings.

I am now here with my family over *three years*, and have expended for living and rent over \$6,000, and living in the plainest style as compared with others in my situation, and as yet am without a fixed salary, which puts me in a very *awkward position*. I hope, therefore, that the honorable Secretary of State will please take this case under friendly consideration for the sake of the honor of our government and country, and also as an act of justice towards me.

I could not have accepted my commission as consul for this place if it had not been for the promise made to me by Hon. Mr. Marcy, a fact stated by me at the time to several of my friends, respectable merchants of the city of New York.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,
LOUIS BAMBERGER.

MALTA.

*Mr. Winthrop to Mr. Cass.*UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Malta, November 3, 1857.

SIR: I have the honor to call your attention to the accompanying returns, from the 1st of January to the 31st of October, 1857, by which it will be noted that the number of American vessels was 23, of 6,672 tons burden, and thus classified: barges, 17; ships, 2; schooners, 2; brigs, 2.

Total amount of American property at Malta, from January 1 to October 31, \$980,720, as follows:

Value of American shipping.....	\$303,900
Value of cargoes in American vessels.....	609,820
Value of American property in foreign vessels.....	67,000
Total.....	980,720

which will give an average of more than ninety-eight thousand dollars a month, and, I trust, will satisfactorily show the commercial importance of this island, though this return is made for a year when the trade has been much less than it would have been but for the monetary crisis in the United States.

The consular fees received on \$980,720 amount to \$275 12, or an average of twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents a month; and but for some vessels which put into port for repairs, they would have been very much less. But, in a few words, to give an idea of the small fees now granted for consular services, I would state that on the following fourteen named vessels, representing an amount of four hundred and twenty-nine thousand seven hundred dollars, I received, in all, sixty-three dollars and fifty-nine cents. The vessels referred to were the barges "Young Greek," "Voyager," "Lepanto," "Avola," "Grape Shot," "E. Shultz," "Vesta," "Cambridge," "Commodore," "Henry Hill," "Volunteer," and "John Wesley," schooner "Silver Key," brig "Sea Foam."

Being desirous that the department should have the latest returns from this consulate, I have been induced to make them up for the last ten months; for this deviation, under the circumstances, I trust I shall be excused, seeing the errors of our present system, and daily feeling their effects.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,
WM. WINTHROP, *Consul.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington.*

ARICA.

MEMORIAL FROM CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

The undersigned, citizens of the State of New York, having been informed that an application has been made to Congress to place the

consulate at the port of Arica, Peru, in South America, on the same footing as to salary with Paita and Tumbes, in the northern part of that State, ask leave to represent :

That the port of Arica, though politically within the limits of the State of Peru, belongs commercially to Bolivia. That the only seaport town of Bolivia, the small town of Cobija, is so separated from the interior by the desert of Alacania, being about six hundred miles in extent, as to render access thereto from the inhabited part of the State impracticable ; and Arica, situated nearly at the southern extremity of the Peruvian coast, and now, since the year 1855, having been brought into easy communication with Bolivia by a railroad to the town of Tacua, at the base of the Andes, is, by its geographical position, and especially by reason of this connexion with the passes of the Andes, the principal, if not the only practical, avenue of commercial communication between our own country and Bolivia.

That the communications in 1858 of Mr. Clay, the minister of our government in Peru, and other diplomatic correspondence on file in the office of the Secretary of State, do, as your petitioners are informed, fully show the justice and propriety of the measure.

The undersigned ask leave to represent also that John T. Lansing, the said consul, is a native of the city of Albany, and has resided at the port of Arica for the last six years, during four of which he has held the position of consul.

They therefore earnestly recommend the proposed amendment to the law of 1855, entitled " An act to remodel the diplomatic and consular systems of the United States," so as to include the port of Arica in the salaried consulates, to your favorable consideration ; and ask for the adoption of such an amendment as will place the said port on an equal footing with Paita and Tumbes ; and as the omission of Arica from the provisions of the act is supposed to have been an oversight, that the amendment may have a retrospective effect.

Respectfully submitted.

ALEXANDER S. JOHNSON.

R. W. PECKHAM.

JOHN R. PORTER.

LYMAN TREMAIN.

W. A. YOUNG.

C. Y. LANSING.

THOMAS W. OLCOTT.

IRA HARRIS.

AMASA J. PARKER.

H. HOGEBOOM.

GEORGE GOULD.

PETER GANSEVOORT.

NICOLAS HILL.

A. D. ROBINSON.

P. CAGGER and others.

ALBANY, *March 5, 1860.*

GIBRALTAR.

Mr. Sprague to Mr. Marcy.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Gibraltar, December 26, 1856.

SIR: I beg, respectfully, to inquire whether, by the new diplomatic and consular acts which are to go in force on the first proximo, the annual salary to this consulate of \$750, together with clerical fees, ceases; if it does, at the reduced rates of fees prescribed by his excellency the President, the amount that may be received is not likely to suffice, even to meet the expenses of stationery for this consulate, and much less to pay the hire of an office.

This fortress, from its geographical position, has always rendered the duties of this consulate numerous and onerous, as to require the constant attention of the consul to his post, and is, in my humble opinion, justly entitled to at least sufficient compensation to prevent the consul from being put out of pocket for the hire of his office and the stationery in it, not referring even to the least compensation due to the consul for his trouble and the time consumed in performing his duties, or to meet the salary of his clerks. For your government the charges of this consulate are as follows:

Office rent, \$30 per month.....	\$360
Stationery.....	50
Clerk hire, \$25 per month.....	300
	<hr/>
Total annual expenditure	710
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I beg to solicit your kind attention to the contents of this note, with the hope that his excellency the President may have it in his power to at least save me from the heavy loss which I have reason to believe the new laws to come in force next month will entail upon me, after having had the honor of fulfilling the duties of this consulate for a series of years.

I am, sir, with high consideration and respect, your obedient servant,

HORATIO J. SPRAGUE,
United States Consul.

Hon. WILLIAM L. MARCY,
Secretary of State of the United States.

BARCELONA.

Mr. Cass to Mr. Floyd.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 20, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication of the 22d October last, of Dr. Volger, the United States consul at Barcelona, addressed to you and referred to this department.

I regret, though I am not surprised to learn, that the consular fees are inadequate for the support of Dr. Volger. On the recommendation of the department some years ago, a small salary, \$750, was provided for the office, but this was withdrawn by Congress in 1856. The post is an important one in many respects, especially for the care and relief of destitute seamen, who are often wrecked or abandoned on that coast. Barcelona is likewise the port to which is sent nearly all the cotton imported into Spain from the United States, and which is shipped directly for that port from New Orleans.

Dr. Volger is an efficient officer and a well educated and intelligent gentleman, and I regret that proper provision has not been made by Congress, so that he may continue to hold the consulate at Barcelona where he has so many opportunities of devoting his leisure hours to interesting and important literary labors.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

Mr. Volger to Mr. Cass.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Barcelona, February 10, 1860.

SIR: In consequence of an unprecedented commercial crisis, that was brought about by merely local causes and lasted during the whole year of 1859, the income of this consulate, consisting entirely of fees, was reduced during the said year to \$573 50. As I am not a merchant, and as there are no export articles here for the United States, I have not the least chance to make a little more besides the consular fees in the way of commission or agency, and so I have been compelled to fall back upon my own very slender private means. * * *

Disappointed in many respects, disgusted with constant quarrels with Spanish authorities and courts, and yet thrown upon my private resources, anxious not to run into debt in a country where I have few friends and little credit, and yet convinced by painful experience that I am not wealthy enough to be a consul at a place like this, I had no other choice left but to resign my office, which I did by letter of the 31st ultimo, to the United States legation at Madrid, and now beg leave to repeat to your department. * * *

Nevertheless, considering the unusual warmth and urgency of Messrs. Preston and Woolley's letters of recommendation, and their request and advice expressed in their private letters to me; considering also the unwillingness of Colonel Preston to appoint some one provisionally in my stead, and the total want at the time being of any subject fit to carry with energy some important consular business to its end, I have informed the legation, on this day, of my readiness to act as United States consul *ad interim*, until your orders can be known.

* * *

Lastly, I beg leave to express to you and your department my warmest and sincerest gratitude for the confidence you have placed in me, and the kind indulgence you have hitherto shown me.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

ERNEST VOLGER.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Preston to Mr. Cass.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Madrid, February 3, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR: I have this morning received a letter from Mr. Ernest W. Volger, resigning his post as consul of the United States at Barcelona, and requesting me to appoint another person, provisionally, to discharge the duties of the office.

Mr. Volger has been an intelligent and excellent officer, and as he has no salary—his whole compensation being in fees—he has been subjected to pecuniary loss which he cannot bear longer. As he is a gentleman of great worth and kindness of heart, in his endeavors to assist American seamen and masters he has drawn on his slender private means, and at length has resigned in despair. Mr. Volger writes English and Spanish very purely, and with elegance, and I regret exceedingly that an officer of such merit, accomplishment, and worth, should be lost to the public service.

Without solicitation on his part, and governed only by the wish to secure such men for the service of my country, I have written this note to recommend Mr. Volger to the consideration of the department, with the earnest request, if it be in your power, to bestow upon him a place which may give him remuneration, that you would do so, as I am firmly assured of the worth and capacity he possesses.

I have the honor to remain, yours truly,

W. PRESTON.

General LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Woolley to Mr. Cass.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Madrid, February 3, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR: Mr. Preston has just handed me a note, written to you, recommending to the service of the department Mr. Ernest W. Volger. Without the knowledge of Mr. Preston, and without the slightest solicitation by Mr. Volger, I take the liberty of joining in the recommendation.

In the labors of this legation I have assisted Mr. Preston in the con-

sular business, giving, to some extent, a general supervision over the conduct of the consuls, and in conducting much of the consular correspondence. I feel it only true and just to say, that in the performance of every official duty Mr. Volger has not only always been active and faithful, but has made greater efforts to relieve and assist American citizens within his consulate than any other consul in Spain, and, I may add, in many instances, greater than the law required. The immediate cause of his resignation is the heavy drain upon his means by destitute Americans, who have thrown themselves upon him for assistance. He has not the firmness to resist appeals from his own countrymen in distress, and he has not the means to relieve them.

It touches me to see a scholar of elegant accomplishments and refined ideas struggling with poverty, when he has the capacity and desire to fill many offices of trust and service to the country. Mr. Volger speaks with elegance nearly every European language—all, I believe, except those of Russia and Turkey—and has a fondness for the attainment of knowledge, both useful and polite, so rarely observed among those who fill such offices as the one he lately held. Apart from any friendly consideration, I believe that it would be of service to the country to place him in some important employment. The interest I take in a gentleman of scrupulous integrity and a scholar of beautiful accomplishments, who has been compelled to abandon the only present support he has, by his inability to resist appeals to his kindness, is the reason I give for voluntarily recommending him to more important and lucrative employment by the country which he is so able and so willing to serve.

I am, with great respect, yours,

R. W. WOOLLEY.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of State.

H. Rep. Com. 564—2

